

Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4297

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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JAKARTA FOR REGIONAL LABOR OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, MY

SUBJECT: CUEPACS VOTES INDUSTRIAL ACTION

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 4611

1. AUG 14 PRESS REPORTED ANNOUNCEMENT BY CONGRESS OF UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC AND CIVIL SERVICES (CUEPACS) SECRETARY GENERAL JAMALUDDIN MOHAMED ISA THAT CUEPACS AFFILIATES HAD UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO GO AHEAD WITH PROPOSED INDUSTRIAL ACTION OVER GOM NON-IMPLEMENTATION OF IBRAHIM ALI REPORT (REFTEL). DECISION TAKEN AT AUG 13 MEETING CALLED TO BRIEF AFFILIATES ON OUTCOME OF AUG 10 CUEPACS-GOM MEETING AT WHICH GOM ANNOUNCED DECISION TO DELAY IMPLEMENTATION ANOTHER SIX MONTHS. JAMALUDDIN SAID CUEPACS STILL HOPED GOM WOULD RECONSIDER ITS STAND AND MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT ON REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO AS TO "AVOID INDUSTRIAL UNREST."

2. ACCORDING REPUTABLE LOCAL JOURNALIST, GOM HAD ANNOUNCED FURTHER SIX MONTHS DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT IN HOPES THAT APPEARANCE OF CONCILIATION (I.E., ANNOUNCEMENT
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OF A LIMIT ON DELAY OF IMPLEMENTATION) WOULD MAKE CUEPACS

AFFILIATES BACK DOWN AND CALL OFF STRIKE AT THIS TIME. SINCE NEW STRIKE VOTE IN SIX MONTHS (IF UNIONS WERE STILL DISSATISFIED) WOULD TAKE UP TO FOUR MORE MONTHS, GOM THUS HOPED TO GAIN ALMOST ANOTHER FULL YEAR BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION. THIS WOULD ALLOW TIME FOR FURTHER "MODERATION" OF NEW PAY SCALES. AS IT TURNED OUT CUEPACS AFFILIATES RECOGNIZED THAT FAILURE TO CARRY THROUGH SOME FORM OF ACTION NOW WITH MEMBERS' STRIKE AUTHORIZATIONS IN HAND WOULD MEAN FURTHER LONG DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF REPORT AND SO DECIDED TO MOVE.

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH CUEPACS HAS NOW DECIDED TO TAKE SOME ACTION IN VIEW OF GOM'S DECISION ON IBRAHIM ALI REPORT, WE ARE NOT SURE THAT ACTION WILL TAKE FORM OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE STRIKE OF PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES. SUCH MILITANT ACTION (AS OPPOSED TO MILITANT RHETORIC) IS FOREIGN TO MALAYSIAN LABOR MOVEMENT AND GOM HAS BEEN STEADILY BUILDING PR CAMPAIGN AGAINST UNIONS ON THIS ISSUE.
UNDERHILL

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